

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

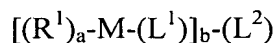
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A retardation film comprising:

a support;

an optically anisotropic layer formed of a compound represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R^1 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and at least one $-CH_2-$ group in said alkyl group is optionally ~~may be~~ substituted by $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C(=O)-$, $-N(R^2)-$, $-CH=CH-$ or

$-C\equiv C-$ but $-O-$ and $-O-$ are not directly bonded in said alkyl group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms;

M represents a group comprising at least three aromatic rings;

L^1 represents a single bond or a divalent alkylene group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and at least one $-CH_2-$ group in said alkylene group is optionally ~~may be~~ substituted by $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C(=O)-$ or $-N(R^2)-$ but $-O-$ and $-O-$ are not directly bonded in the alkylene group;

L^2 represents a cyclic alkene or alkyne group having a valence of b;

a represents the number of R^1 (s) substituted on M; and

b represents an integer of 2 to 6,

wherein the compound represented by formula (I) is a liquid crystalline compound comprising a polymerizable group.

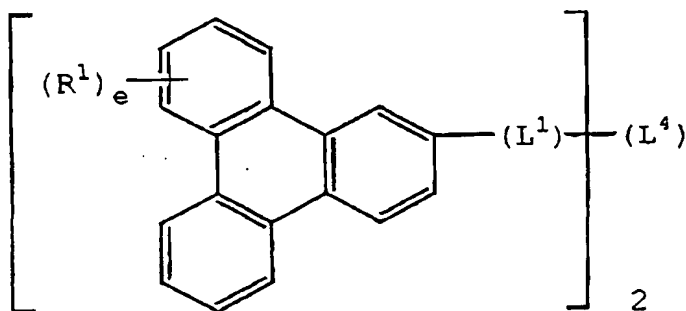
Claim 2 (Original): The retardation film as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the compound represented by formula (I), the plurality of Ms are not conjugated with each other by a multiple bond.

Claim 3 (Original): The retardation film as claimed in claim 1, wherein M in formula (I) is a group comprising a triphenylene ring.

Claim 4 (Original): The retardation film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound represented by formula (I) exhibits liquid crystallinity.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Original): The retardation film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound represented by formula (I) is a compound represented by formula (II):



wherein R^1 and L^1 each has the same meaning as in formula (I);

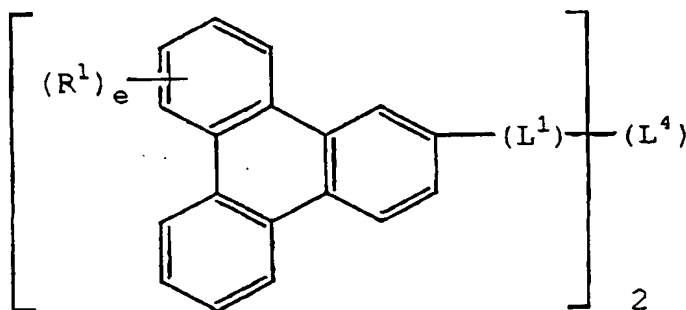
L^4 represents a divalent cyclic, alkene or alkyne group; and

e represents the number of R^1 (s) substituted on each of the two triphenylene rings,

provided that the two triphenylene rings bonded through L^1 and L^4 are not conjugated.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A compound represented by the following formula

(II):



wherein R^1 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and at least one $-CH_2-$ group in said alkyl group is optionally ~~may be~~ substituted by $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C(=O)-$, $-N(R^2)-$, $-CH=CH-$ or

$-C\equiv C-$ but $-O-$ and $-O-$ are not directly bonded in said alkyl group;

L^1 represents $-O-C(=O)-*$, wherein $*$ represents the location at which L^4 is bonded, a ~~single bond or a divalent alkylene group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and at least one $-CH_2-$ group in said alkylene group may be substituted by O , S , $C(=O)$ or $N(R^2)$ but O and O are not directly bonded in the alkylene group;~~

L^4 represents a divalent cyclic, alkene or alkyne group; and

e represents the number of $R^1(s)$ substituted on each of the two triphenylene rings,

provided that the two triphenylene rings bonded through L^1 and L^4 are not conjugated,

wherein the compound represented by formula (II) is a liquid crystalline compound comprising a polymerizable group.

Claim 8 (Canceled)